

Drop till you shop, work till.....

Work is something I consider to be uniquely human. That statement can be examined later, and for now I invite you to think of work- of what it means to you, to your loved ones, your friends. Not just them, but also the workers at McDonalds; the executives at Goldman Sachs; and even the child laborers spread across the globe, and even the poachers mostly active in Africa. Consider, even, the variety of young and old influencers spread across different social media platforms, and grunt level officials and workers in authoritarian governments. All of these people work- indeed, a human who has never worked a day in their life probably passed away at a very tender age. Work might mean and resemble very different concepts to these initially disparate groups of people, but largely globalization and interlinked economies have allowed us to think, compare and attempt to empathize with people not familiar to us.

Work is associated with goodness. Certain philosophies and ways of thinking consider work to be a primary virtue, and some consider work to be man's salvation, and humankind's redeeming quality. The notion of "work", from our perspective, in 2022, has existed for far enough back in time to matter; we work, our parents worked, their parents did, and so will our children. The variety of jobs available in fields and subfields of a discipline today keep growing, making the selection of what work to do, its own job. Think of coaching centres, study abroad planning centres, aptitude centres and the like. A long time ago, perhaps before the industrial age, but long after the first discovery of agriculture, work did not span so many domains. Indeed, most all work to be done was labor. There existed work in administration, planning, trading, traveling, among others, and as one might imagine, they were more coveted jobs than the ones involving manual labor. This was a time when slavery was rampant, colonization was in its infancy relative to what happened in the later years, mortality from many ailments was high, meat was fancifully expensive and a frequent staple of only the rich, and jobs like trading that involving buying wares, travelling(by land or sea) demanded huge premiums in good seasons. After all, there was massive risk in buying, transporting, and selling wares- without even thinking of the supply, demand, wares getting stolen, bad or sick, there was the huge concern of being safe on the road. There was plenty of work to do, food was never really sufficient, at least for the lower classes, housing was similar, and the creature comforts we now enjoy were not spread out, for that came after the industrial age. Those who could, have many children, since many died when they were young. That is something you'll see with most families even a generation or two ago; people today have the gall today to say they won't have any kids, and Elon Musk is gravely worried about the human underpopulation crisis(or perhaps the USA's) and is doing his best to fix it personally. Then came the industrial age, steam engines, and a lot of other rapid advancements. Products could be manufactured en masse, long distances cleared with more advanced ship engines. The telephone could also be mass manufactured, and Henry Ford(I think) put up the assembly line, wanting to sell his cars to any and everyone he could. Medicine advanced and stopped becoming an area restricted to royals; vaccinations were discovered and even medicines began to be mass produced in giant vats. Agriculture underwent similar

transformations and became more efficient, with machines, fertilizers, land consolidation, integrated trading and pesticides. Soon, the communist movement also spread, talking of how the layman must seize the means of production from the bourgeoisie, since that is the method of capital generation, and without it, the power and capital in these economic systems will remain densely concentrated among a few. Again, there was a lot more work to do; an explosion of work in fact, and you can imagine why. People could buy houses, have steady jobs, and eat better food, and a larger population than ever did not have to worry about starvation. There was simply so much to produce, to innovate, to refine, the common man kept busy, largely.

And yet that individual did not have available even remotely close to the opportunities we have today to create wealth. Smartphones, not just phones, smartphones, are a mainstay globally.